



1 May, 2009

Issue 6/2009

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During the last few weeks of term, I met with each new staff member who has joined St Stephen's School this year.

What an eye-opener for me and what a delightful privilege! The enthusiasm and absolute pleasure each person expressed to me about their love for their job, for their students and for our School was a tonic. Several told me some sad circumstances they have experienced, and yet their love of life and positive confidence demonstrated to me their strong resilience and faith in God. Our community is blessed to have each of them on our staff. I certainly was blessed in my conversations.

As we begin a new term, I ask each of you who are parents to be supportive, loving yet firm in your role as a parent. It is a demanding role and there are many pressures on you. Work with the School, not against, and be consistent in your expectations of your child and in your own discipline of them. (Being a grandparent, I feel 'experienced' in the art of parenthood and perhaps old enough to offer some advice!) It is a difficult road but it can also be an enjoyable road. Our children need us to be there and to listen – a fact certainly reinforced in the recent program on *Bullying and Cyber Bullying* on Four Corners television program on ABC1 on 6 April.

I have included an article from the April *Parenting Tips* which you may find useful. It contains pointers on the challenge parents face of 'getting in first', and how important it is to have decisively formative conversations with children before someone or some television program sows a skewed message.

To our students I want to say well done to you if you were pleased with your efforts and achievements during Term 1. Continue to work hard in Term 2 which is going to be a very busy term. There will be a whole lot of rich experiences you can be involved in if you choose.

If you were not proud of your standards, I challenge you to make a fresh start and take up the baton of hard work and discipline. There is no space for slackness and there is no space for disruptive behaviour that interferes with the learning of others.

Have a challenging and wonderful Term 2.

It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves.

Sir Edmund Hillary

(Mrs) Caryl Roberts
Principal

Whole School Information

Key Dates 2009			
Mon-Wed 4-6 May	Yr 4L Camp	Mon 18 May	Yr 12 Leadership (A/S)
Mon 4 May	Yr 11 Geography Fieldwork	Tue 19 May	IPSHA Ecumenical Service in Sports Centre CAS
Tue 5 May	CAS	Wed 20 May	VET CAS
Wed 6 May	VET Yr 9 Lightning Carnival	Fri 22 May	Secondary State Cross Country
Wed—Fri 6-8 May	Yr 4P, 5, 6 Camp	Tues 26 May	IPSHA Chess Day in Primary Forum CAS
Thu 7 May	Yr 8 Lightning Carnival	Wed 27 May	Yr 10 Why We Learn French Forum VET CAS
Fri 8 May	Coffee Connect for Parents 8.00am onwards outside Canteen	Thu 28 May	ACC Cross Country
Tue-Thu 12-14 May	NAPLAN	Fri 29 May	Staff Retreat—Pupil Free Day
Tue 12 May	CAS P&F Meeting	Mon 1 June	Foundation Day Holiday
Wed 13 May	VET CAS Yr 12 Drama Show	Tue-Fri 2-12 June	Yr 11 and 12 Exams
Thu 14 May	Yr 12 Drama Show Junior House Debating	Tue 2 June	CAS
Fri 15 May	Coffee Connect for Parents 8.00am onwards outside Canteen <i>Dove Tales</i>	Wed 3 June	CAS
Mon-Fri 18-22 May	Photo Competition Music Festival	Thu 4 June	Junior House Debating
		Fri 5 June	<i>Dove Tales</i>

2009 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

Students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 across the country will participate in NAPLAN assessment in Week 3 of Term 2 (12-14 May with Friday 15 May being a catch up day).

A brochure *2009 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy - Information for Parents* has previously been sent home for your information.

Expressions of Interest - Year 11/12 Exam Supervision

We require approximately 15 parents to assist us with the invigilation of the Semester One Year 11/12 examinations being held Tuesday 2 June - Friday 12 June. If you have half or full days available during this period, to work off your 2009 Family Commitment hours, then please contact Miss Simone Robinson on 9306 7320.

School Photos

These were distributed at the end of last term. There are a number of parents who have not paid or returned unwanted photos. These are now overdue. Please send your payment or unwanted photos to the School Office.

PARENTING TIPS

Ten Tips for Talking to Your Kids About Anything

Raising a child is probably the most gratifying job any of us will ever have -- and one of the toughest. In large part, that's because times have changed. We live in an increasingly complex world that challenges us every-day with a wide range of disturbing issues that are difficult for children to understand and for adults to explain. We believe this booklet can help. It offers practical, concrete tips and techniques for talking easily and openly with young children ages 8 to 12 about some very tough issues: sex, HIV/AIDS, violence, drugs and alcohol. Some parents and caregivers may question the appropriateness of talking about such sensitive topics with young children. Maybe you're one of them. But consider this: our kids are already hearing about these issues from TV, movies, magazines and school friends. If we don't talk with them early and often -- and answer their questions -- they'll get their facts from someone else. And we'll have missed an important opportunity to offer our children information that's not only accurate, but also in sync with our own personal values and moral principles. Make sense? We think so. So let's get started.

1. Start early.

Kids are hearing about and forced to cope with tough issues at increasingly early ages, often before they are ready to understand all aspects of these complicated ideas. Additionally, medical research and public health data tells us that when young children want information, advice and guidance, they turn to their parents first. Once they reach the teenage years, they tend to depend more on friends, the media and other outsiders for their information. As a parent, you have a wonderful opportunity to talk with your child about these issues first, before anyone else can confuse your child with incorrect information or explanations that lack the sense of values you want to instill. We need to take advantage of this "window of opportunity" with young children and talk with them earlier and more often.

2. Initiate conversations with your child.

While we want our children to feel comfortable enough to come to us with any questions and concerns -- and thus give us the opportunity to begin conversations -- this doesn't always occur. That's why it's perfectly okay -- at times even necessary -- to begin the discussions ourselves. TV and other media are great tools for this. Say, for instance, that you and your 12-year-old are watching TV together and the program's plot includes a teenage pregnancy. After the show is over, ask your child what she thought of the program. Did she agree with how the teenagers behaved? Just one or two questions could help start a valuable discussion that comes from everyday circumstances and events. Also, when speaking with your child, be sure to use words she can understand. Trying to explain AIDS to a 6-year-old with words like "transmission" and "transfusion" may not be as helpful as using simpler language. The best technique: use simple, short words and straightforward explanations.

3. ...Even about sex and relationships.

If you feel uncomfortable talking about such sensitive subjects -- particularly sex and relationships -- with your young child, you're not alone. Many parents feel awkward and uneasy, especially if they are anxious about the subject. But, for your kid's sake, try to overcome your nervousness and bring up the issue with your child.

4. Create an open environment.

Young children want their parents to discuss difficult subjects with them. However, our kids will look to us for answers only if they feel we will be open to their questions. It's up to us to create the kind of atmosphere in which our children can ask any questions -- on any subject -- freely and without fear of



Dubious TV content prompted worthwhile discussion between Di and her daughter

consequence. How do you create such an atmosphere? By being encouraging, supportive and positive. For example, if your child asks, "How many people have AIDS?" try not to answer with, "I don't know. Please just finish your lunch." No matter how busy you are respond with something like, "That's an interesting question, but I'm not sure. Let's go look it up." (FYI: Don't worry that if your children learn that you don't know everything, they won't look up to you. That's simply not true. Kids accept, "I don't know," and "let's go find out," and they are better responses than any inaccurate or misleading answers you may be tempted to offer.) One more point: You don't need to answer all of your children's questions immediately. If your 10-year-old asks, "Mom, what's a condom?" while you're negotiating a tricky turn in rush-hour traffic, it's perfectly okay for you to say something like, "That's an important question. But with all this traffic, I can't explain right now. Let's talk later, after dinner." And make sure you do.

5. Communicate your values.

As a parent, you have a wonderful opportunity to be the first person to talk with your child about tough issues like drugs and violence before anyone else can confuse him with "just-the-facts" explanations that lack the sense of values and moral principles you want to instil. Likewise, when talking with your child about sex, remember to talk about more than "the birds and the bees," and communicate your values. Remember: research shows that children want and need moral guidance from their moms and dads, so don't hesitate to make your beliefs clear.

6. Listen to your child.

How many times do we listen to our children while folding clothes, preparing for the next day's meeting, or pushing a shopping cart through the supermarket? While that's understandable, it's important to find time to give kids our undivided attention. Listening carefully to our children builds self-esteem by letting our youngsters know that they're important to us and can lead to valuable discussions about a wide variety of sensitive issues. Listening carefully also helps us better understand what our children really want to know as well as what they already understand. And it keeps us from talking above our youngsters' heads and confusing them even further. For example, suppose your child asks you what crack is. Before you answer, ask him what he thinks it is. If he says, "I think it's something you eat that makes you act funny," then you have a sense of his level of understanding and can adjust your explanations to fit.

7. Try to be honest.

Whatever your children's age, they deserve honest answers and explanations. It's what strengthens our children's ability to trust. Also, when we don't provide a straightforward answer, kids make up their own fantasy explanations, which can be more frightening than any real, honest response we can offer. While we may not want or need to share all the details of a particular situation or issue with our child, try not to leave any big gaps either. When we do, children tend to fill in the blanks themselves, which can generate a good deal of confusion and concern.

8. Be patient.

Often it can feel like forever before a youngster gets his story out. As adults, we're tempted to finish the child's sentence for him, filling in words and phrases in an effort to hear the point sooner. Try to resist this impulse. By listening patiently, we allow our children to think at their own pace and we are letting them know that they are worthy of our time.

9. Use everyday opportunities to talk.

It's important to try to talk with your kids about tough issues often, but there isn't always time in the day to sit down for a long talk. Also, kids tend to resist formal discussions about today's toughest issues, often categorizing them as just another lecture from mom and dad. But if we use "talk opportunities," moments that arise in everyday life, as occasions for discussion, our children will be a lot less likely to tune us out. For instance, a newspaper item about a child expelled from school for carrying a gun to class can help you start a discussion on guns and violence.

10. Talk about it again. And again.

Since most young children can only take in small bits of information at any one time, they won't learn all they need to know about a particular topic from a single discussion. That's why it's important to let a little time pass, then ask the child to tell you what she remembers about your conversation. This will help you correct any misconceptions and fill in missing facts. Finally, in an effort to absorb all they want to know, children often ask questions again and again over time -- which can test any parent's nerves. But such repetition is perfectly normal, so be prepared and tolerant. Don't be afraid to initiate discussions repeatedly, either. Patience and persistence will serve you and your child well.

Source: Edited text from

www.healthresources.caremark.com

Whole School Information (cont)

Term 2 Music Sign Ups

The St Stephen's Music program has seen a 21% increase during term 1 as a result we have been able to employ more specialist instrumental teachers providing more opportunities for new students. If your child is interested in plugging into the program now is the time to sign up for lessons.

The following instruments are available for tuition: bass guitar, trumpet, trombone, clarinet, flute, fife pipe, alto/tenor/baritone saxophone, violin, viola, cello, double bass, piano, tuned percussion, drums, classical guitar, voice for classical/contemporary and musical theatre styles.

As part of our new brass program we are offering free instrument hire for trombone available to any interested students who sign up for lessons in term 2. (We have 3 trombones left)

Collect application forms from the music office or request a form via email.

Free Ensemble tuition is available for beginner to advanced students for the following school groups: *(Sorry we can't accommodate all drummers, guitarists and piano players due to large student numbers).*

Instrumental Groups	Vocal Groups
Jazz Big Band (Wed 7.30am)	Music Major Vocal Group (Tues 8.10am)
Concert Band (Fri 7.30am)	Divas Devine (Friday 7.30am)
Primary Junior Concert Band (Thurs 3.30pm)	Vocal Workshop (Friday Lunch)
Stage Band (Tues 7.30am)	Male Barbershop (Tuesday Lunch)
Classical/Flamenco Guitar Ensemble (Wed 7.45am)	Female Barbershop (Monday Lunch)
Primary Acoustic guitar ensemble (TBC)	Year 7 Choir (Thursday Lunch)
Saxophone Ensemble (Fri Lunch)	Year 6 Choir (Tues 1.20pm)
Clarinet Ensemble (Start Term 2)	Year 5 Choir (Mon 1.20pm)
Fusion Flutes Ensemble (Thurs Lunch)	Year 4 Choir (Mon 2.40pm)
Primary Strings Ensemble (Mon 7.30am)	Junior Sing Thing (Thurs 8.00am)
Junior Strings Ensemble (Thurs 7.30am)	Senior Sing Thing (Tues 8.00am)
Secondary String Ensemble (Thurs 7.30am)	
Chamber Ensemble (Thurs 7.30am)	
Funk Soul Rock band (Tues Lunch)	
Classical Funk Band (Thurs 3.30pm)	
Year 7/8 Band (Mon 7.30am)	
Primary Rock Band (Wed 3.30pm)	

Please contact Mr. Shannon de Bie on 9306 7342 or email debiesh@ststephens.wa.edu.au

For all Primary groups please contact Debbie Pattison on 9306 7175, or email pattisd@ststephens.wa.edu.au

Uniform Shop

Commencement date of wearing winter uniforms is Monday 11 May.

Wearing of the blazer is compulsory for Year 8—Year 12 students.

Blazers that were having emblems sew on, are available from Tuesday 5 May.

It is compulsory for Year 7 boys to wear the grey trousers and grey socks for winter.

Year 3—6 winter sports uniform consists of the rugby top and track pants with a red and white stripe down the side. The winter sports uniform is not compulsory for Pre-Primary to Year 2 but if they wish to wear it, then it must be the same as the other students in the above years. The uniform can only be bought at the Uniform Shop.

Uniform Shop hours are: Tuesday 12.30pm -4.00pm
 Thursday 8.00am -11.00am

Women Of Worth (WOW) Dinner

This will take place on 6 May 2009 at the Glengarry Tavern Duncraig starting at 7.00pm. It has been a long time in the planning but we have finally got WOW up and running and I'm sure you will agree the topic of Eating Disorders is one that affects many in our community. Cath Ashton from Women's Health Works Joondalup is our guest speaker. Please come and join us and bring a friend.

Primary

Mother's Day Celebration

The Early Learning Centre Mother's Day Celebration will be on Friday 8 May. All mums and grandmothers welcome. We start in the Forum at 2.30pm for a quick thanksgiving time and then move to the Blue Area for afternoon tea and pampering.

Chess

Chess after school begins again on Wednesday 13 May in the Library from 3.30—4.30pm.

Loud Shirt Day

On Friday 15 May 2009, the Primary School is getting **LOUD** to support children who are deaf or hearing impaired. **Loud Shirt Day** is a National fundraising initiative organised by Telethon Speech & Hearing Centre. The purpose of the campaign is to raise funds and help to teach hearing impaired children to speak. On this day, the Primary children are encouraged to wear their loudest or brightest shirt and to donate a gold coin in support of Telethon Speech & Hearing Centre. For an extra 50 cents, the children can enter a colouring competition where prizes will be given in the Pre Primary, Year 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 age groups. By supporting Telethon Speech & Hearing's Loud Shirt Day, you are helping to get deaf kids talking and all the children, parents and staff at the Centre. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Secondary

Careers Information

Year 12 students considering applying for studies in Medicine, Dentistry and some Health Science Degrees must register to sit the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) this year. Registrations close on Wednesday 29 July 2009.

The UWA Campus Challenge takes place in the July school holidays for students in Years 10 to 12 who are interested in pursuing university studies. Students stay at one of UWA's residential colleges for the first week of the July school holidays and take part in a range of academic, sporting, recreational and social activities at the UWA Crawley Campus. Completed applications must be submitted by Friday 15 May. Fees apply. Please visit the UWA website for more information.

University of Western Australia, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape & Visual Arts Open Day takes place on 18 May

Curtin University – Transition to Registered Nursing Program (TRNP). Application forms and further information are available through the Careers Office for interested Year 11 students.

Enrolments for Semester 2 study at TAFE open on 4 May.

Please see Ms Johnson in the Careers Office for more information.

Community Notices



Parents Victoria Online Conference

18-24 May 2009

Parents of primary and secondary students, in all locations, are warmly invited to take part in the third online conference to be held by Parents Victoria. The conference will be held non-stop on the internet from 6am Monday 18 May to midnight Sunday 24 May. No special software is needed, other than an internet-connected computer and a browser. The online discussions will be very easy to join in, and guidelines about how to participate will be provided. You do not need to be a member of Parents Victoria to take part. Join in for all days, just some days, or even a few hours, depending on your lifestyle and other commitments.

Register online at no cost

The Parents Victoria Online Conference 2009 website will open from 6am on Monday 18 May at:

http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv1_09/ but please register yourself online first at <http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv09.htm>

The conference will feature seven live daily online discussions, each of them hosted, for several hours each day, by a member of Parents Victoria or expert staff from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the VSCA. Each 24-hour period will focus on a topic that is currently of concern to parents. An online resource bundle of information and opinions will also be provided as an optional extra to give you a kick-start on each day's topic.

There will also be one continuous week-long online discussion on the topic: "What support do parents need to be active participants in their children's learning and development?"

Each day (the exact date for each topic will be advised soon), the conference will discuss one of the following questions:

Parent/teacher meetings - how could these meetings be improved?

School attendance - when is it okay to stay away?

Transition - what could be done to improve transition from one level of schooling to the next, i.e. kindergarten to primary, Year 6 to secondary?

Cyberbullying - how do we keep our children safe?

Sex education - who's responsible?

Banning confectionery from school canteens - tell us your thoughts (this will be hosted on Thursday 21 May by Prue Cerin from the Victorian School Canteen Association)

Parental engagement - What can be done to get more parents involved in their children's schools? Hosted by DEECD.

Debra Brydon, Online Conference Manager.

Email: brydon@cybertext.net.au

Community Notices

St Stephen's Uniting Church Carramar: A church meeting is held at 9am each Sunday in the Primary Forum. All are welcome to attend. The Minister is Rick Williams, phone 9306 7338.

This fortnight's Bible Reading: please click on <http://www.lectionarystudies.com>

Fun4Kids Care on Staff Retreat day, Friday 29 May, 2009. The cost is \$25 per child and the program is for Pre-Primary to Year 7s. Bring your own lunch, but everything else is included. 8.00am-4.00pm. 31 Chadlington Drive, Padbury. For more information please email nicolem@c3hh.com.au or phone 9307 5000. Drinks, morning tea, afternoon tea, crafts, big-screen movies, games, console games, music. Volunteers have Working With Children Card Checks

Swine Flu

The Association of Independent Schools in WA (AISWA) have received a few queries about how schools should respond to the issue of Swine Flu. At this stage, the best information can be found on the Health Department website where there is information about the flu, and a number of suggestions about prevention and what to do should someone display symptoms of the flu. For your convenience, the link below will take you directly to the Swine Flu section of the website where you can access fact sheets and frequently asked questions. http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/949/2/swine_flu.pm

Canteen News—new winter menu

There is a new winter menu which can be accessed on the website or a copy can be picked up in the office.

Canteen Roster—if you can help, please call 9306 7132,

	8.30-11.00am			11.30am—2.00pm
Monday	4-May-09	Babe		Danielle West
Tuesday	5-May-09	Connie Mader		C Gilchrist
Wednesday	6-May-09	S Hawkins		HELP NEEDED
Thursday	7-May-09	Derrin Muirden		Lesley Gates
Friday	8-May-09	HELP NEEDED	Sharon Mitchell	Louise Sutton
Monday	11-May-09	New Crosser		L Scott
Tuesday	12-May-09	L Tinley		K Izzo
Wednesday	13-May-09	H Weybury	L Saunders	J Dugdale
Thursday	14-May-09	M McGowan		A Res
Friday	15-May-09	S Wright		HELP NEEDED
Monday	18-May-09	HELP NEEDED		Justine Craven
Tuesday	19-May-09	D Markovic		Janelle Vlahov
Wednesday	20-May-09	Sharon Carter		HELP NEEDED
Thursday	21-May-09	L Hildreth		HELP NEEDED
Friday	22-May-09	T Maley		J Conway

<p>DUNCRAIG 100 Doveridge Drive Duncraig 6924 PO Box 68 Greenwood Western Australia 6924 ☎ +61 8 9447 1111 📠 +61 8 9447 1116</p>	<p>CARRAMAR 50 St Stephens Crescent Tapping PO Box 246 Joondalup Western Australia 6919 ☎ +61 8 9306 7100 📠 +61 8 9306 7101</p>
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Website: <http://dovetales.ststephens.wa.edu.au> <http://www.ststephens.wa.edu.au>